

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1. Do you agree with the recommended list of Priority Marine Features as the basis for targeting future marine conservation action in Scotland's seas?

If your response includes a suggestion to amend the list, please indicate the specific species and habitats that your comments apply to and, where possible, provide or reference any evidence or data sources which have influenced your comments.

Yes No

It is unclear to conclude whether the list is comprehensive or not without more specific information being available on management measures and whether stocks are healthier in some areas due to less exploitation, whilst stocks may be over-exploited in other areas.

Additional information will be required at local level to ascertain the social and economic impacts proposed management measures will have coastal communities whilst current available information gives more balance to environmental issues.

Several commercial mobile species of fish and shellfish are included and in areas within the Outer Hebrides believe that only cod and whiting should be included, as other stocks are considered to be healthy within inshore waters. ICES advice should be sought before any mobile species are included in the PMF list.

Management Plans have been submitted by Inshore Fisheries Groups covering most of the inshore waters around Scotland. Those Plans should be implemented and developed in partnership with future management of the marine environment which must consider the sustainable economic growth of the communities that are permanently dependent on the marine environment, with few alternative employment opportunities.

General

Q2. Are there other issues that have not been highlighted in this consultation that you would like to mention?

Yes No

It's unclear whether management measures being proposed within MPAs to protect certain features, will be extended to areas outwith the MPA where those features are located.